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Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules for such an important listening session. The American farmer, along with all of America will be effected by the new farm bill. Food is a necessity of life, a national security issue. We need the continued help of the government to survive as farmers so we can continue to produce the safest and most economical supply of food in the world.

First let me introduce myself. I am Donnie Smith, a full time fifth generation South Georgia farmer. Growing on my farm this year is cotton, tobacco, wheat, peanuts, and pine trees. In the past crop years, I have grown corn, soybeans, vegetables, rye, oats, cattle, and hogs. I earn my livelihood and provide for my family solely from the farm. My wife also works full time on the farm.

American agriculture is in trouble. Low commodity prices, high fuel costs, high fertilizer costs, taxes, increased machinery prices, droughts, floods, and a myraid of other problems beset us. The mood on the farm today is one of desperation, depression, and uncertainty. Some nights I wake up in the middle of the night with sweaty palms and can't sleep contemplating the future of my farm. Hopefully, with the new farm bill, not only can we come up with some workable solutions to benefit not only the farmer, but also all American citizens.

Below are some suggestions for the new farm bill.

We need some kind of safety net whenever yield or prices fall below a level of profitability. Before we plant the crop we would know the minimum price we would receive. Put a target price on all of our crops. I feel some reasonable target prices are:

Corn- \$3.60 a bu.	Wheat- \$4.50
Cotton- \$.68	Soybeans-\$7.00

We need the continued support of the government in the hard times to survive. Without your support and payments over the last years, my farm

Give payments for good conservation practices. Conservation practices benefit every citizen in the USA. A good program would be to make payments on strip or conservation tillage. These tillage practices reduce farm expenses. Also, conserving water by aiding farmers and ranchers in the construction of farm ponds and reservoirs would also benefit everyone. Conserving the soil, water, and our environment are critical issues and need some aid or cost sharing to encourage the farmer to implement these practices.

Continue the Boll Weevil Eradication Program [BWEP]. Programs such as the BWEP allow farmers to reduce expenses.

We need some government aid for research to improve technological advances such as gene altering round-up ready cotton and corn, and BT crops. Research allows us to grow crops cheaper.

Paying a farmer to let a portion of his land lie fallow until prices improve

Again, I say thank you for your concern, time, and hard work in a very difficult job. Whatever comes out of this new farm bill may determine if I, and other small farmers can continue their dream of farming. Without the past support of the government payments, my farming and many others would have ceased. Remember, by helping the American farmer, you are helping all Americans.

Thanks,

Donnie H. Smith